

**File code:**  
**1792**  
**DNA 2**  
**EA OR120-02-12**

**Decision Record for**  
**Culvert Replacements and Modifications within the Myrtlewood Field Office**  
**DNA No. 2 to EA OR120-02-12**

**Background:**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Coos Bay District previously prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA OR120-02-12) and Finding of No Significant Impact to evaluate the effects of replacing and modifying existing culvert sites on BLM-controlled roads within the Coos Bay District. The objective was to replace or modify culverts currently prohibiting the passage of aquatic life forms, especially anadromous and resident salmonids. The EA analyzed a Proposed Action along with a No Action alternative. The Record of Decision for the EA was signed on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2002. No comments were received from the general public, adjacent landowners, or interested citizens. The proposed actions and impacts, as described under the Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA) No. 2 to EA OR120-02-12 are similar to those analyzed in EA OR120-02-12, therefore a new EA is not needed.

**Survey and Manage:**

Currently we are operating under the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement For the Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (USDA; USDI, 2000) and *IM No. OR-2002-064* (June 14, 2002). For our District there are no mollusk species requiring pre-disturbance surveys. Protection is required for known sites of *Megomphix hemphilli*, as of September 30, 1999. There are no known *Megomphix hemphilli* sites, as of September 30, 1999 in the area of the project sites.

There are no known occurrences of Survey and Manage or Special Status plant species in this area. The culvert replacement sites occur within the road prism, which has been in a perpetual state of disturbance, and does not provide habitat for the above mentioned species. Therefore, surveys are not required. The gully plug site was surveyed on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2002, and no Survey and Manage or Special Status plants were found.

There will be no removal of trees to facilitate the projects. As the canopy over story will not be affected, no surveys are required for Red Tree Voles.

There are no known Survey and Manage wildlife sites in the proposed project areas.

**Endangered Species Act:**

Culvert replacement projects were included as an activity category (Aquatic and Riparian Restoration Projects) in the April 13, 2001 Biological Assessment (BA) for BLM, Forest Service (FS), and Coquille Indian Tribe (CIT) programmatic actions affecting Southern Oregon/Northern California (SONC) coho salmon, Oregon Coast (OC) coho salmon, and OC steelhead. A Biological Opinion (Opinion) was issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on August 8, 2001. The proposed action is consistent with and will be implemented in accordance with all applicable project design criteria outlined in the April 13, 2001 BA, and terms and conditions of the August 8, 2001 Opinion.

**Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act:**

The April 13, 2001 Biological Assessment (BA) for BLM, FS, and CIT programmatic actions, as described above, included an Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) assessment for coho salmon, chinook salmon, groundfish, and pelagic species. The NMFS concluded EFH consultation in the August 8, 2001 Opinion for the programmatic actions, and incorporated all of the reasonable and prudent measures and the terms and conditions from the Opinion as EFH conservation recommendations. The proposed action is consistent with and will be implemented in accordance with all applicable terms and conditions of the August 8, 2001 Opinion.

**Decision:**

My decision is to adopt the Proposed Action of EA OR120-02-12 for the culvert replacement and modification projects described in DNA No.2 for the Myrtlewood Field Office.

The design features are accepted as described therein, including restrictions to minimize disturbance to marbled murrelets, coho salmon, and steelhead.

**Rationale for Decision:**

The Proposed Action would restore stream passage for aquatic organisms as well as restore the natural sediment regime, channel bottom configuration, and hydrologic flows of the associated streams. The decision is in compliance with the *Coos Bay District Final Proposed Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* with its *Record of Decision* (BLM 1995), and the *Final Supplemental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*, with its *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines* (Interagency 1994). Allowing increased access to additional stream habitat will benefit associated fisheries and other aquatic species and help to ensure their persistence within the landscape.

**Monitoring:**

Compliance monitoring of the Proposed Action should be performed by the BLM Project Inspector (PI) for the project contract. It is the PI's responsibility to ensure compliance with

contractual stipulations (including design features).

Culverts would be inspected and maintained on a routine basis, following the guidelines recommended in the District Transportation Plan to meet ACS objectives.

**Decision recommended by:**

Gregg Nelson

NRSA

Myrtlewood Field Office: Gregg Nelson Date: 9/24/02

Terri Colby

Acting NRSA

Myrtlewood Field Office: Jay Flora Date: 9/25/02

Dennis Turowski

NRSA

Myrtlewood Field Office: Dennis Turowski Date: 10/02/02

**Decision approved by:**

Rich Conrad

Field Manager

Myrtlewood Field Office: Richard Conrad Date: 10/03/02